Literacy by the Numbers

14% of adults in the U.S. struggle with poor reading, writing and basic math skills.

43% of adults living in poverty face low literacy.

70% of prison inmates have low literacy.

24th Place

The literacy skill level of U.S. adults ages 16-65 is below the average of adults in 23 other developed countries.

225,000,000,000

Low literacy costs the U.S. at least $225 billion each year in non-productivity in the workforce, crime and loss of tax revenue.

21%

Federal and private funding of adult literacy programs has been cut 21% in the past 15 years.

Source: “Trends in the Private Sector: Implications for Adult Literacy Programs” by ProLiteracy